

REMARKS

In this Final Office Action, claims 2, 3, 6, 24, and 25 are objected to, claims 1, 11, and 23 are rejected, and claims 12-22 are allowed.

Regarding the objected-to claims, claims 2 and 24 have been amended to recite in substance the recitations of the prior base claims. Claims 3, 6, and 25 now depend from one of now-allowable claims 2 and 24.

Claim 6 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Regarding the rejections, claims 1, 11, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,105,997 issued to Wakabayashi et al. (hereinafter "*Wakabayashi*"). In response, claims 1 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering rejections thereof. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from now-allowable claim 2.

Thus, claims 2, 3, 6, 11-22, 24, and 25 now stand in allowable form.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 6, 11-22, 24, and 25 are in condition of allowance. Thus, entry of the offered amendments and early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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